



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: (800) 842-1421
E-MAIL: Michael.McLachlan@cga.ct.gov
WEB SITE: www.SenatorMcLachlan.cga.ct.gov

MINORITY WHIP
RANKING MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

April 5, 2011

Senator Harp, Representative Walker, distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am here today to speak in support of House Bill 5117, *An Act Concerning Portions of the State Budget Appropriating Aid to Municipalities*.

This bill was introduced with the intentions of aiding municipalities in their budgeting process, by requiring that the General Assembly adopt portions of the State budget that appropriate aid to municipalities no later than March 1 of any calendar year. By assuring that this is done municipalities will have state aid numbers in place so they can plan their annual budgets accordingly.

Municipalities plan a great deal of their annual budgets based upon what they are going to receive from the state. Additionally, many of Connecticut's municipalities prepare and present their budgets in the earlier part of the calendar year. Often times, as we know, the budget process at the Capitol takes a great deal of time, often stretching into late spring. These two timelines simply do not line up.

It is unfair for us to prevent municipalities from preparing and presenting accurate budgets because there is contention here at the Capitol. Municipalities deserve to be able to plan for the fiscal well-being of their communities with a clear picture of what will be coming their way from the state. This legislation will create a deadline for the state in which they need to provide for the aid that municipalities can expect, which in turn will allow for municipalities to the ability to fully understand the fiscal picture for their upcoming year. That is simply the best way to ensure responsible budgeting on both the part of municipalities and the state.

I urge the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you.